

SENATE BILL 870

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6lr3016
CF HB 1092

By: Senator A. Washington

Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2026

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Department of Health – Adolescent Psychiatric Inpatient Beds –**
3 **Capacity in Prince George’s County and Report**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Maryland Department of Health to ensure the
5 establishment and ongoing operation of a minimum number of licensed adolescent
6 psychiatric inpatient beds in Prince George’s County; requiring, under certain
7 circumstances, the Department to issue a request for proposals to establish
8 adolescent psychiatric inpatient beds in the county and to administer a certain grant
9 program; requiring the Department to report to the Governor and the General
10 Assembly on certain information related to adolescent psychiatric inpatient bed
11 capacity in the State; and generally relating to adolescent psychiatric inpatient bed
12 capacity.

13 BY adding to

14 Article – Health – General

15 Section 19–310.7

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, Maryland hospitals experience pediatric psychiatric overstay and
20 boarding pressures, and State law recognizes the occurrence of pediatric psychiatric
21 overstays and the need to transfer youth to appropriate treatment settings when clinically
22 indicated; and

23 WHEREAS, Prince George’s County has experienced reductions in adolescent
24 psychiatric inpatient service capacity, including the revocation of adolescent psychiatric
25 inpatient bed licenses; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, The Maryland Department of Health maintains a statewide psychiatric
2 bed registry and referral system to identify available inpatient psychiatric beds and to
3 coordinate behavioral health placement; and

4 WHEREAS, State and local behavioral health planning documents identify an
5 ongoing need to expand and strengthen the quality and availability of behavioral health
6 services for children and youth; now, therefore,

7 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
8 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Health – General

10 19-310.7.

11 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
12 INDICATED.

28 (III) ESTABLISHING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO
29 FINANCE AND OPERATE ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENT BEDS.

1 (I) REDUCE PEDIATRIC PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY
2 DEPARTMENT BOARDING AND INPATIENT OVERSTAYS;

3 (II) ARE REFLECTED IN AND MEASURABLE THROUGH THE
4 STATE'S INPATIENT PSYCHIATRIC BED REGISTRY AND REFERRAL SYSTEM; AND

5 (III) ENSURE ACCESS REGARDLESS OF PAYER SOURCE,
6 INCLUDING THE MARYLAND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

12 (II) A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS ISSUED UNDER
13 SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH SHALL BE DISTRIBUTED TO, AT A
14 MINIMUM, PRIVATE OR NONPROFIT OPERATORS WITH DEMONSTRATED
15 EXPERIENCE IN ESTABLISHING ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENT BED
16 CAPACITY IN THE STATE.

21 (C) (1) THE DEPARTMENT SHALL ADMINISTER A COMPETITIVE GRANT
22 PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH THE ADOLESCENT PSYCHIATRIC INPATIENT BEDS
23 REQUIRED UNDER SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION.

- 1. HOSPITALS;**
- 2. PSYCHIATRIC FACILITIES;**
- 3. NONPROFIT HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS; OR**
- 4. PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS.**

5 1. RENOVATION;

6 2. CONSTRUCTION;

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That:

10 (a) On or before October 1, 2027, and annually thereafter until 2030, the
11 Maryland Department of Health shall report to the Governor and, in accordance with §
12 2-1257 of the State Government Article, the General Assembly on:

13 (1) the number and location of licensed adolescent psychiatric inpatient
14 beds by county;

15 (2) metrics for pediatric psychiatric emergency department boarding and
16 overstay;

17 (3) any barriers to staffing licensed adolescent psychiatric inpatient beds,
18 including licensure barriers; and

19 (4) recommendations for rate or regulatory changes needed to maintain
20 sufficient capacity of licensed adolescent psychiatric inpatient beds.

21 (b) The Department shall use available data systems, including the State
22 inpatient psychiatric registry and referral system, to generate data for the report required
23 under subsection (a) of this section.

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
25 1, 2026.